



*VAN GOGH, Vincent, Sower with Setting Sun, 1888,
Rijksmuseum Kruller-Mueller, Otterlo, Netherlands*

*The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 30, 2023 — 9:00 am*

Christ Church

(Episcopal / Anglican)

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The Rev. Don Caron, *Priest*

The Rev. Leslie Mazzacano, *Deacon*

Peter Homan, *Organist*

Joan Sanders, *Parish Secretary*

Christ Church
Riverton, New Jersey
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
THE HOLY EUCHARIST, Rite II, Prayer A
July 30, 2023 — 9:00 A.M.

Prelude *“Prelude and Fugue in E minor”* J S Bach

Processional Hymn 398 *“I Sing The Almighty Power Of God”*

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant : Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.***

Celebrant : Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Gloria S-280 *“Glory to God in the highest”*

The Collect of the Day --

Celebrant : The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant : Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

A Reading (Lesson) from 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night;

and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 119:129-136 *Mirabilia*

129. Your decrees are wonderful; *

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130. When your word goes forth it gives light; *

it gives understanding to the simple.

131. I open my mouth and pant; *

I long for your commandments.

132. Turn to me in mercy, *

as you always do to those who love your Name.

133. Steady my footsteps in your word; *

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134. Rescue me from those who oppress me, *

and I will keep your commandments.

135. Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.

136. My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.

A Reading (Lesson) from Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Gospel Hymn 654 *“Day By Day”*

Then, all standing, the Deacon:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

People: ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Sermon The Rev. Don Caron, *Priest*

The Nicene Creed (*Sung to the tune of Come Thou Fount of
Every Blessing 686 or Love Divine, All Loves Excelling 657*)

We believe in God the Father, God almighty, by whose plan,
earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.
Jesus infant born of Mary He grew up in Galilee.

From the water with John the Baptist, He began his ministry.
Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead.,
We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended. till as judge he comes again.
We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above;
saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,. Christ our Savior,
Lord and friend. we shall rise with him in glory.
to the life that knows no end.

Prayers of the People for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Presider: Just as the Spirit intercedes with deep sighs, let us turn
our hearts to the will of God and offer prayers for all peoples.

Deacon: For Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our
Presiding Bishop, Sally, our Bishop, Donald our Priest, Leslie
our Deacon. For Supply Priests, Choir Camp, Rev. Dr. Timothy
Mulder, The Sudan Committee, The Rev. Susanna Cates, The
Convocation Deans, The Ministry of all Bishops and for this
holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those chosen to govern peoples and nations, especially
Joseph the President of the United States, and Phillip the
Governor of NJ, and for the welfare of their people

Lord, hear our prayer.

For mercy, justice, and peace in the world.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For farmers and a good harvest, for travelers and those on
vacation, and for safety from violent storms.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those in danger and need: the sick especially *Ruth, Ed, Sharon, Annamarie, Susan, Donna, Cheryl, Carol, Jeanette, Susan, Austin, Lynn, Tibor, Cynthia, Katie, Kelly, Eileen, Doris, Sean, Bob, Arlene, Barry, Joan, Naomi, Carol, David, Natalie*, and the dying, the poor and the oppressed, travelers and prisoners, and for their families. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead. especially, *Rodney A. Stevens, Francis & Alice Cole.*

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves, our families, our companions, and all those we love.

Lord, hear our prayer..

Lifting our voices with all creation, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***To you, O Lord.***

Presider: God of infinite wisdom, who searches the heart of every one, hear the prayers we offer you this day and gather us into the kingdom of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Confession of Sin

The Deacon:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest, stands and says

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

The Peace *(All stand.)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Offertory Music *“Favorite Hymns Selected By The Congregation”*

The Doxology *(Hymnal 380 Verse 3)*

All: ***Praise God of whom all blessings flow***

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above the heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving *Rite II Form A*

Celebrant : The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant : Lift up your hearts.

People: ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant : Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy Holy, Holy Lord (*Hymnal S-129*)

*All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new

and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us,
we are bold to say (*spoken*)

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Invitation

Communion Music *“Improvisation on Humbly I Adore Thee”*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People ***Almighty and everliving God, we thank
you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious
Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for
assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members
of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us
to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our
Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and
glory, now and for ever. Amen.***

Birthday Blessings

Anniversary Blessings

Announcements

Final Blessing

Recessional 539 “*O Zion Haste*”

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia

Organ Postlude “*Trumpet Tune in D Major For Organ*”

D. Johnson

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THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR TODAY

are given to the glory of God and in memory of in memory of
my father, *Rodney A. Stevens* for his birthday, July 31, 1924,
by Cheryl Stevens Caster and family.

THE CHAPEL SANCTUARY LIGHT is lit
in memory of *Francis & Alice Cole* by The McCamy Family,
and in loving memory of *Rodney A. Stevens*
by his daughter Cheryl Stevens Caster.

Participating in the 9am. Service

Lector: Jeff Mack *Acolyte:* Jeff Mack, Shea Gulbin, Christian Gulbin

Ushers: Larry Bradshaw, Ed Worthy *Videographer:* Linda Yansick

Altar Guild: Terri Bradshaw, Robin Vetter

Counters: Don Dietz & Bob Engle

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MUSIC NOTES - This morning we will be singing first and last verses of favorite hymns selected by the congregation. Please have your page number and title ready from either the blue 1982 Hymnal or LEVAS.

MONDAY MEDITATION GROUP will meet Monday, August 14, at 2:30 p.m. in the Parish House Parlor. This is a new in-person group which will be twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays every month. Contact Mel Caron at melanieannecaron@gmail.com or 478-234-3698 if you have questions.

MID-WEEK SERVICE A celebration of the Eucharist is held every Wednesday at 10:00. It includes special mention of the persons on the parish prayer list and asks for God's healing for the world. The Service lasts about 20 minutes.

THURSDAY STUDY GROUP - This week, August 3, we will continue with the second half of Rob Bell's Drops Like the Stars. We meet at 10 a.m. in the Church Parlor.

MEN'S GROUP. We will meet for about an hour every first and third Saturday of each month @ 9:00 am (so you can still have your day), and we will talk about the things that are important for a man's spiritual life. It's an opportunity to deepen relationships with other men of the parish, too. All men are invited!

CAMP FAITH BACKPACKS We will be collecting donations of and school supplies throughout the month of July. Please leave your donations in the tower entrance. Thank you, Deacon Leslie.

MINISTRY TO RIVERVIEW ESTATES On the first and third Sunday of each month, at 3:00 pm Christ Church leads a Communion service for the residents. Members of the parish are welcome to help the participants.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN SUPPORTING

St. Paul's Camp Faith. We sent over \$3000.00 in donations from you and it is with great gratitude that you continue to support the various ministries that Christ Church is involved in. You have shown that we can live in the Kingdom of God right here on earth. Blessings, Deacon Leslie

IN THAT SAME VEIN, I received notice that the Camp Faith van used to transport the children to different activities broke down and was out of commission for a few days. As it was a set-back God was in the midst of the situation and they were able to get a loaner. Mitchell doesn't know what it is going to cost. If anyone would like to contribute any amount of money to help offset the cost please make out a check to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and in memo line put Camp Faith Van and give me the check and I will forward to Mitchell. Thank you so much. Deacon Leslie